

# **PILGRIMS OF TO-DAY**

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Pilgrims of to-day by Mary H. Wade

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**MARY H. WADE**

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OF TO-DAY**



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**PILGRIMS OF TO-DAY**

# PILGRIMS OF TO-DAY

BY

MARY H. WADE

AUTHOR OF "THE LIGHT-BRINGERS," ETC.

*ILLUSTRATED*



BOSTON  
LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY

1916

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## FOREWORD

WE Americans are justly proud of our country, — its riches, its privileges, its opportunities. We say: Here in the United States people have more liberty than those of any other nation in the world. The poorest have the same rights as the possessors of great fortunes; the man without a penny and unknown to-day may, if he prove himself worthy, become at some future time the head of this Republic. No one can set a limit as to what another may accomplish in this free land.

While considering our present blessings, we do not forget how much we owe to our immigrant ancestors, pilgrims to these shores, who suffered privation and even death for the sake of their descendants. We honor them for their sacrifices and achievements.

Some of the very people, however, who give unstinted praise to the early pilgrims, grieve at the incoming tide of foreigners during recent years. They believe that unless a stop is put to such an inflow we cannot continue to prosper.

But people who think thus seem to forget that there have been pilgrims in recent as well as past times for whose coming every loyal American should be grateful. For instance, we note the statesman Carl Schurz, who rendered this country noble service when its need was great. There was Jacob Riis, who devoted himself to the poor and the needy, and brought sunshine into the lives of untold numbers of human beings. There was the scientist, John Muir, who revealed hitherto unnoted wonders among our mountains and valleys, and to whose untiring zeal we owe a beautiful national park which shall be free for the enjoyment of all people of all times. There is Mary Antin, whose heart overflows with love and admiration for her adopted country, and who strives to hold us to the ideals of our ancestors. There is Nathan Straus, the "Savior of Babies"; Jacob Pulitzer, the editor of world-wide fame; and Edward Alfred Steiner, the friend and helper of the working people.

May it not be worth our while to consider the lives of some of the pilgrims of to-day, who have given so much to the land that we love and they learned to love, and to which they have devoted the best part of their lives?

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